

## NEWS AND EVENTS

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### IALS Library Receives Major Gift from Former Visiting Fellow

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) has received a major gift of over US\$1.8 million from the estate of Professor Thomas C Fischer and Mrs Brenda A Fischer. The Institute was named as one of four residuary beneficiaries under a trust agreement established by the Fischers, along with the New England School of Law, Georgetown University Law Centre, and Wolfson College, Cambridge.

Professor Fischer was awarded an Inns of Court Visiting Fellowship to IALS in 1996 and was in residence for a year. While at the Institute, he developed his research in the area of international law and globalization. Professor Fischer was a distinguished American legal academic who graduated from the University of Cincinnati and Georgetown University. He served as Dean of the New England School of Law from 1978 to 1981 and remained a professor there until his retirement in 2003. He was the author of 12 books, including *The Europeanization*

of America (1996). The Fischers' transformative gift has been bequeathed "for the purpose of acquiring library resources concerning United States-European Union relations and globalisation".

Professor Carl Stychin, Director of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, responded to the news:

My colleagues and I are touched by the generosity of Professor and Mrs Fischer in remembering the Institute. It is particularly gratifying to know that Professor Fischer enjoyed his time as an Inns of Court Visiting Fellow. I have no doubt that this gift will have a major impact on the development of the IALS Library collection, further strengthening our position as the national law library.

Ms Marilyn Clarke, IALS Librarian, said:

The Library is deeply grateful and honoured to be the recipient of such a large sum. Our foreign, international, and comparative collections are a major national resource in support of academic research

in their field, and this generous gift will allow us to enhance our collection development as well as our engagement and outreach activities across the HE and law libraries sectors.”

The Institute will also now begin to plan how to commemorate the Fischers.

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## Selected Upcoming Events

### **Judicial Conversation. Exploring the judicial role and its challenges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012**

**Venue:** IALS, 17 Russell Square,  
London WC1B 5DR

**Date and time:** 13 March 2024,  
6:00pm-7:30pm

**Speaker:** Dr Shailesh Kumar

**Chair:** Professor Leslie J Moran,  
Emeritus Professor, School of  
Law Birkbeck College

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012 introduced a new court into the Indian legal system. It is an institutional regime dedicated to dealing with the challenges within criminal justice that arise from cases of sexual offences against children. After setting out the key characteristics of this new criminal justice regime, the focus of the conversation will be the distinctive role that the judges play in these courts. The discussion will draw on

Dr Kumar’s empirical research in this field. Between 2019 and 2020 he conducted extensive fieldwork in India. This included courtroom observation and interviews with various stakeholders. Of particular significance for this conversation are in-depth face-to-face semi-structured interviews with 17 judicial officers (judicial magistrates and POCSO special judges) through which he explored judicial perceptions and experiences of the POCSO courts. One of the areas of particular interest is the role of stakeholder training. The discussion will explore what if any are the effects of such training on judicial stakeholder engagement with child victims and on child sexual abuse cases in the POCSO courts.

See [website](#) for details.

### **Technology, Transparency and Criminal Justice**

**Venue:** IALS, 17 Russell Square,  
London WC1B 5DR

**Date and time:** 19 March  
2024, 6:00pm-7:30pm

Marking the launch of *Observing Justice* by Judith Townend and Lucy Welsh (Bristol University Press, 2023), this evening seminar will consider how under-scrutinized legal, social and technological developments have affected the transparency and accountability of the criminal justice process.

Speakers from academic, civil society and legal organizations will

share insights from their research and professional experiences, as they relate to key legal policy issues such as equality of access, remote and virtual courts, justice system data management, and the roles of public and media observers.

Townend and Welsh's socio-legal work, based on both evaluative and empirical studies, highlights the implications of recent changes for access to justice, offender rehabilitation, and public access to information, and argues that a framework for open justice should prioritize public legal education and justice system accountability.

The event will also respond to the Government's 2023 consultation on open justice: a report is expected to be published in early 2024. Though this book focuses on England and Wales, the topic has international relevance, with—for example—open justice and access to justice initiatives led by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, World Justice Project and Open Government Partnership.

See [website](#) for details.

### History of Arbitration Project

**Venue:** IALS, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR

**Date and time:** 27 March 2024, 6:00pm-7:30pm

**Speaker:** Dr Francis Calvert Boorman

**Theme:** *“Your Christmas holidays cannot be more dull*

*than mine. I pass the morning in arbitrations, the most irksome of all employments, and the evening in absolute solitude”*: Arbitration in Nineteenth-Century England

Arbitration, the settling of disputes by one or more party-appointed referees, continued to be a common experience in 19th-century England, even in a period of rapid change in the demography of society and economy. This talk will describe the multifarious disputes to which arbitration was applied, ranging from bankruptcy and land disputes, to divorce settlements, labour disputes and international relations. It will also chart the ways in which arbitration was changed, both in its relationship with the courts and via its inclusion in legislation relating to other aspects of governance, like the compulsory purchase of land and regulation of the railway industry. As a voluntary process it was also profoundly affected by the parties who turned to arbitration and the uses they made of it.

To help navigate this complex landscape, the individual experiences of parties, arbitrators and reformers are highlighted, showing how class, gender and region all affected attitudes to arbitration and its operation. These biographies encompass lawyers, such as the enthusiastic Lord Brougham LC and the reluctant Lord Campbell LC, who provides the quote for the title. However,

the diversity of disputes demands a wider cast of characters. There are also industrialist-politicians like AJ Mundella, engineers like Robert Stephenson, businessman and polymath, Leone Levi, and campaigner for women's rights, Caroline Norton.

See [website](#) for details.

**Legal History Seminar: The Origins of the Modern Criminal Trial: Evidence from the Old Bailey, 1674-1913**

**Venue:** IALS, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR

**Date and time:** 23 May 2024, 6:00pm-8:00pm

**Speakers:** Professor Tim Hitchcock and Professor Robert Shoemaker

**Chair:** Professor Catharine MacMillan, King's College London, IALS Senior Associate Research Fellow

Using evidence from computational analysis of the digitized Old Bailey Proceedings, this paper examines the major transformations in courtroom practices which took place in this influential court in the 18th and 19th centuries. It examines the changing roles played by courtroom participants (focusing on victims, juries and witnesses, but also with attention to defendants, counsel and judges), the evolution of the physical design of the courtroom, and changing trial outcomes (verdicts, punishments)

to argue that historians have overemphasized the role of judges and counsel and the development of the written law in their accounts of the history of the criminal trial. Changes in the courtroom roles of other trial participants, only detectable through analysis of actual trial proceedings and associated evidence, were at least as important in shaping the development of the modern criminal trial.

Professor Hitchcock and Professor Shoemaker are world-leading legal historians in the common law world. Their work is particularly interesting and important not only for its content but also for the uses to which they have put this content. These include the Old Bailey Online and the Digital Panopticon: their projects have worked to digitize and provide direct access online to billions of items of primary source material. This enables historians easy access to those sources which enable the writing of a new "history from below".

Their work is inherently cross-disciplinary, combining and enabling research in both law and history. It is also of importance in research training. This research has national and international appeal. It is important that IALS hosts this lecture for all of these reasons.

See [website](#) for details.

### **Essentials of Law of International Trade and Finance**

**Venue:** short course online via Zoom

**Date and time:** 5 April 2024-7 June 2024, 12:00pm-2:00pm

**Course Director:** Dr Mahmood Bagheri

This compact course offers a unique combination of state-of-art topics related to legal aspects of most recurring issues in contemporary international trade and finance. The themes of the course have been strategically selected to equip the participants with the knowledge, insights and skills necessary to face the latest challenges in the field of trade and finance.

The course consists of selected subjects related to the rapidly changing international trade and finance law. The topics covered in this course include both a general discussion on recent case law and legislative developments related to jurisdictional and substantive conflict of laws rules and specific themes such as project finance, the place of public policy and economic regulations in international commercial arbitration, regulation of crypto currencies and assets, sovereign debt and sovereign investment, de-risking and optimal level of application of anti-money laundering laws and regulation, evolution of capital adequacy.

The teaching offered in 10 sessions and each session lasts two hours.

See [website](#) for details.

### **W G Hart Legal Workshop 2024**

**Venue:** IALS, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR

**Dates:** 26-27 June 2024

The W G Hart Legal Workshop is a major annual legal research event organized and hosted by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. Over the years this eponymous workshop series, subsidized by funds from the [W G Hart Bequest](#), has focused on a wide range of comparative and international legal issues and topical interests.

The Workshop will be held on 26 and 27 June 2024, in person at IALS. This year's topic is "Historicising Jurisprudence: Person, Community, Form". While recognizing the universal and impersonal aspirations of jurisprudence, the 2024 Hart Workshop seeks to explore its historicization in particular times and places. The Workshop thus invites participants to take an alternative view of jurisprudence: as a human, all too human, practice, which is deeply personal while also being deeply social, and one that is shot through with historically situated politics and culture. By digging deeply into its situated ethics, politics, and aesthetics, this Workshop

will explore different ways of historicizing jurisprudence.

The Workshop aims to open up a new interdisciplinary research agenda for the history of jurisprudence. It seeks to animate the historiography of jurisprudence, connecting it to historiographical developments in other disciplines, including history of science and knowledge, history of literature and rhetoric,

history of emotion and the body, intellectual history, social history, and history of political geography. The conference will pursue these aims by probing three themes: person, community, and form. The Workshop organizers are Professor Maksymilian Del Mar, Queen Mary University of London, and Professor Michael Lobban, All Souls College, Oxford.

See [website](#) for details.

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## Podcasts

Selected law lectures, seminars, workshops and conferences hosted by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in the School of Advanced Study are recorded and accessible for viewing and downloading.

See [website](#) for details.

## SAS IALS YouTube Channel

Selected law lectures, seminars, workshops and conferences hosted by IALS in the School of Advanced Study are recorded and accessible for viewing and downloading.

See [website](#) for details.